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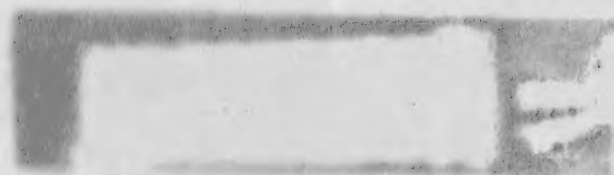
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EXOTIC PLANTS
BIOLOGICAL SUPPLIES

GUIDED EXCURSIONS
TO BEAUTIFUL
ORCHID LANDS

TROPICAL ODDITIES
TROPICAL SEEDS

This list is for those who like tropical plants and want nice specimens of rare plants for the house in winter and outdoors in summer. This enterprise is operated by people long familiar with tropical plants from around the world.

It is difficult to publish a permanent list of rare orchids and other rare plants because new things are always being discovered. These plants come from remote places and often high water, snakes, alligators and other hazards interfere with prompt delivery, but when slow in filling an order, we put in an extra, besides the "surprise in every package".

All prices indicate bare root unless otherwise stated. Orchids and Bromeliads do much better if taken on wood.

We quote special prices to schools, museums and dealers. No order for less than \$2.00 will be accepted because of increased postal rates. Old customers and repeat orders excepted. All orders postpaid East of the Mississippi River unless otherwise stated. Add 10% West of the Mississippi. Packing guaranteed. All plants are blooming size and taken by permit. None are taken from the Everglades Park area. PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF YOUR PLANTS IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT.

Please read this bulletin carefully - many people don't, and it causes needless correspondence.

The culture of these plants is simple and of necessity our instructions are simple and to the point. In shipping plants everywhere we cannot state anything but a general and accepted practice. Though orchids and Bromeliads are tough plants and take much punishment, they react differently in different places. You must find the proper location on your premises.

The old theory that it is difficult to grow orchids is exploded, and there is no reason why you should do without them! There are so many types that one may enjoy them year round - indoors and outside - at very little cost. At first, you can try your hand on the inexpensive wild varieties which we can supply. Among our customers are beginners, amateurs, professionals, advanced collectors and the most exacting connoisseurs. For the latter, we advise getting on our "special" list as there are new varieties discovered and imported quite often.

ORCHIDS TERRESTRIAL

Terrestrial orchids grow in soil especially leaf mold and compost. The vanillas should be rooted or grown loosely potted. Use any or all of the following - best to mix two or three items, your choice - Spaghnum, excelsior, dead leaves, leaf mold, compost, osmunda screenings, etc. Other terrestrials should be grown in compost and started in shade, and as bloom spike appears, gradually move to sun or very strong light. Special instructions with each order.

VANILLA PLANIFOLIA (fragrans). Vanilla extract comes from this orchid. Flowers 3 to 4 in. greenish yellow, fragrant. Plant vine like, large thick leaves. \$1.00 per cutting of at least 2 eyes.

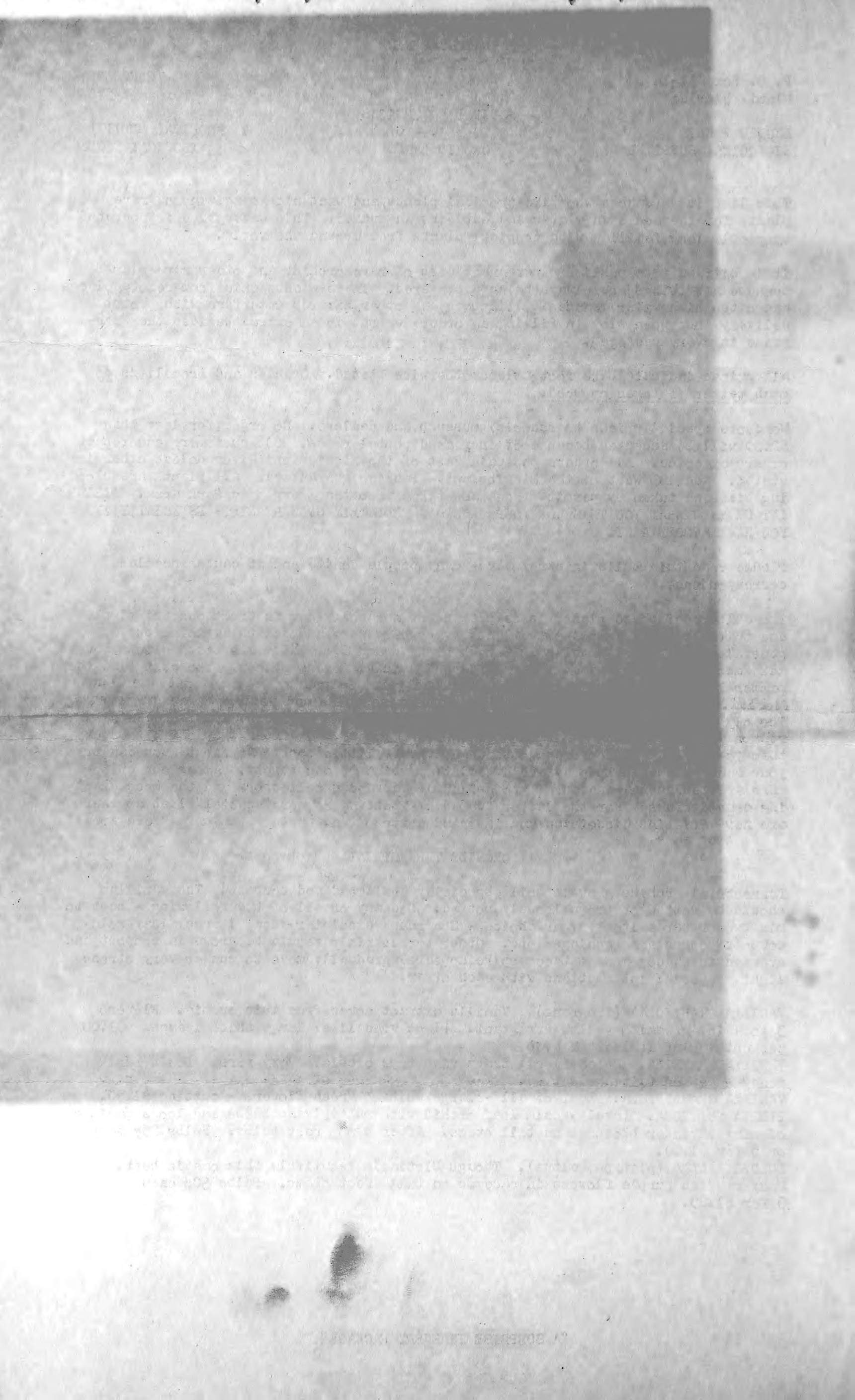
VANILLA PRAESENTA. A beautiful, heavy vine type orchid. Very rare. Don't send money - get on waiting list.

VANILLA GRANDIFLORA. Best of all - large whitish green flowers - cutting \$1.50.

BLETIA TUBEROSA. Lovely, palm leaf orchid with multiplying bulbs and loose panicles of many lavender blossoms on tall stems. After bloom rest bulbs. Bulbs 25¢ each or 5 for \$1.00.

EULOPHIA ALTA (platypus altus). Though Bletia is beautiful, this one is best. Many reddish purple flowers in racemes on tall erect stems. Bulbs 30¢ each - 5 for \$1.25.

"A SURPRISE IN EVERY PACKAGE"

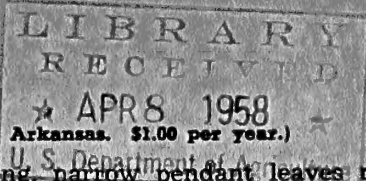


FLORIDA—LAND OF FERNS

BY A. B. FLETCHER

Box 811 I. A. B., Miami, Florida

(Reprinted from March, 1958 Issue of OZARK GARDENS, Eureka Springs, Arkansas. \$1.00 per year.)



As before stated, Dr. John Kun-
kel Small pronounced Florida the
greatest American fernery, with
over 107 wild species. Some are
found throughout the state, some
only in central and north Florida,
while many are known only in
south Florida, and it is these
about which I write. Some are
very unique and rare.

If you like ferns, you should
learn something about them.
Ferns don't bloom—they spore,
and they are identified by the
spore arrangement and physical
make-up on the back of the
leaves. However, some ferns,
such as the osmunda, bear spores
on separate stems.

There are terrestrial ferns that
grow only in soil, epiphytics that
grow on trees, rocks, logs and
other things, and some that grow
both ways. Nearly all terres-
trials have both roots and stems
below ground; notable exceptions
are the Hawaiian tree fern and
the two Osmundas, regalis and
cinnamonea, that grow abundantly
in Florida and parts of the
eastern United States and Can-
ada. The above-ground roots or
fiber of the Osmundas provide
the most important potting me-
dium for epiphytic orchids.

The south Florida swamp ferns
are the most luxuriant and love-
ly—not at all, though, when you
must crawl and fight your way
through them to reach a valu-
able objective only a short dis-
tance away. *Blechnum* grows in
large patches, sometimes 4 to 5
feet tall. One day in Dead Man's
Strand, while looking for special
orchids, I fought them so hard
that I lost my sense of direction,
and came out on the wrong side
of the swamp, one mile off course.
Made me mad, but I got some
fine orchids.

There are so many ferns that
you must range far and wide to
see them, and then you are not
at all likely to see some of them.
The only Hand Fern I ever saw
was in the University of Miami
herbarium. *Cheriglossa pal-
mata* is the only known specie
of this fern. It grows chiefly on

Another strange one is *Psilo-
tum nudum*, or naked fern, some-
times terrestrial, but often found
growing on rotten logs, stumps,
and from knot holes in scrub cy-
press trees. It has long stems
with scale-like leaves, and the
spores are in bright yellow balls
on the upper part of the branch-
ed stems. This fern is found
only in Florida, and a small part
of the South Carolina coast.

I can't begin to name all these
ferns, because many genera have
several species. For instance,
there are 19 *Aspleniums*, the best
of which is *serratum*, or Bird's
Nest, already mentioned in this
series of articles. *Dryopteris* has
21 species, and others have 4 or
5 species.

Following are a few, but by no
means all, of the most interest-
ing ferns. If you want articles
telling more about these and
others, write me or Mrs. Bestard.

The largest of American ferns
is *Acrostichum daneaefolium*, or
giant leather fern. It grows well
up into Florida in low places, and
often the leaves are 12 to 15 feet
tall. Some people, especially
tourists, seeing them along the
highways, think they are two or
three things other than ferns.
They grow by the acres in places,
and are so dense you must go
around them or machete your
way through. No wonder our
army lost the Seminole war! The
leaves are thick and glossy green
on top, like magnolia, and when
sporing, the under side is a solid
carpet of rich, velvet brown.

Among my favorites is the deli-
cate, lacy, climbing or vine fern
(duck your head for this one!)
Phymatodes heterophyllum. This
is the only one of the 60 species
that grows in the United States,
in south Florida only. It is
found in just a few places, in
high, rocky hammocks, but is
plentiful where found. It ram-
bles over and clings closely to
rocks and small trees, up which it
climbs. Wish I had time to grow
them in pots and trellises—might
get rich.

Vittaria lineata, grass or beard
fern, grows mostly in sepal palms

long, narrow pendant leaves re-
sembling a beard. For baskets
only.

Most people know the Maiden-
hair or *Adiantum* fern. A ten-
erum grows chiefly in deep, high
hammock lime sinks, and along
with it grows the rare and lovely
halberd fern, *Tectaria heraclei-
folia*, which often covers the tops
of narrow, deep lime sinks. Go-
ing into lime sink hammocks is
a nice way to break a leg or neck;
many wildcat and panther dogs
have been lost in such places, and
only a few nuts like me, hunters,
tree snail collectors, and plant
explorers, venture into these
hammocks.

Fern lovers can grow only a
few of the many ferns, but they
can easily have a home herbari-
um, which could hold many spe-
cies. It is easy to press the ferns
between blotter papers, and later
secure them with Scotch tape in
books or folders. It makes a very
interesting hobby, and is used in
all schools of higher learning and
in museums. Many private col-
lections of this kind have brought
and will bring high prices.

To be really appreciated, ferns
must be seen in large banks or
clumps. Thick forests usually
seem drab to most people; the
green foliage is above, and only
a few shade-loving plants grow
below. In many such places,
ferns change the picture to one
of exotic beauty.

How enchanting to step into
one of these wonderland spots,
with thick masses of mixed ferns
growing all around and above!
Stumps and logs are covered with
the wild Boston fern (*Nephro-
lepis exaltata*), plentifully mixed
with the long, broad-leaf strap
fern (*Campyloneuron phyllitides*).
Above, tree limbs are covered
with resurrection fern, and the
forest floor is a carpet of red-
dish *Ludwigia*, the running plant
so often seen in aquariums.

Truly, this is a fairyland where
one can easily imagine that elves
are peeking from among the
ferns. There are such things, you
know! But perhaps they don't

ORCHIDS EPIPHYTIC

Epiphytic plants grow naturally on trees, logs and rocks with aerial or exposed roots. If bought growing on wood or tussock, they are much easier to handle. If bare root, pot in rotten wood, fern root or other loose material with charcoal and broken pottery in the bottom of the pot. Quick drainage is necessary and don't over water. Soak well then allow to dry out before watering again. Plant on wood needs more water. Some of these plants like more light than others, but the light or sun in your locality is the determining factor. Light and water requirements come with each plant.

These inexpensive native plants grow just like the fancy, large flowered type and so they are best for beginners. After learning there is little gamble in buying the more expensive type. People are really going for orchids. Many orchids do not look good when out of season or dormant, but that is the best time for shipping. Don't throw away a dead looking plant if the roots are alive.

CYRTOPODIUM PUNCTATUM (A curved foot that punctures). Bull's horn or cigar orchid. A mammoth of the orchid family, most robust and easy to grow orchid native of the United States. A real spray orchid with long spreading panicles of yellow, black and brown spotted blossoms, very showy even when not in bloom with large bulbs and palm like leaves. January to April.

Small	\$ 3.00	
Medium	\$ 5.00	
Large	\$10.00	Express collect - On wood add \$5.00
Extra large	\$25.00	Express collect - On wood add \$5.00

EPIDENDRUM TAMPENSE (Butterfly Orchid) - we can't say enough for this rugged "spunky", ready blooming plant. The best for beginners and it wins the admiration of all orchidists. Takes punishment, will stand cold and some freezing. Small fragrant, yellowish green flowers with white and purple lips. Many blossoms in loose sprays which are good as cut flowers or corsages. Do not remove dead bulbs until plant is established.

5 to 8 strong bulbs	\$ 1.25	On wood.	\$ 1.75
8 to 12 strong bulbs	\$ 1.75	On wood.	\$ 2.25
Extra large plant	\$ 5.00	On wood.	\$ 7.00

EPIDENDRUM COCHLEATUM, called "Black" orchid (var. triandrum) - Found only in South Florida. Lovely and easy to grow with attractive bulbs and foliage. May bloom any time with small blackish purple, shell like flowers in short sprays. Especially nice on tussock or wood.

Small 4 to 6 bulbs.	\$ 1.75	On tussock or wood.	\$ 2.25
Medium 8 to 12 bulbs.	\$ 2.25	On tussock or wood.	\$ 2.75
Large 12 or more bulbs.	\$ 3.50	On tussock or wood.	\$ 4.25

EPIDENDRUM DIFFORME - Gentlemen's orchid - fine for boutonniere. Very attractive, with rich green succulent leaves and many lovely greenish white flowers in clusters at the stem ends. May bloom anytime.

At least 3 nice stems	\$ 1.00	On tussock or wood.	\$ 1.25
Medium.	\$ 1.50	On tussock or wood.	\$ 1.75
Large	\$ 2.00	On tussock or wood.	\$ 2.25

EPIDENDRUM RIGIDUM - For beginners and collectors. Much like difforme with many stems and roots standing away from the wood. Not found in many places but very luxuriant where found. Small yellow flowers in clusters. Price same as difforme.

EPIDENDRUM NOCTURNUM - One of our best with long stems and many roots. Very attractive when in leaf and bloom. Largest flowers of any native. Sepals and petals yellow, lip white with yellow spot. Very odd shaped and fragrant at night. Likes shade but strong light and humid atmosphere. As with E. Anceps and different from most orchids, they will often bloom more than once on the old green leafless stems, so do not remove until completely dead.

3 to 5 stems.	\$ 1.75	On wood or bark.	\$ 2.00
5 to 8 stems.	\$ 2.25	On wood or bark.	\$ 2.50
Large	\$ 4.00	On wood or bark.	\$ 4.50

EPIDENDRUM ANCEPS - Next to Cyrtopodium our showiest orchid plant with many small yellow blossoms in heads. Much better on wood. Shade and humid condition necessary. Another good boutonniere orchid and often other interesting things growing with it on wood. Price same as E. Nocturnum.

EPIDENDRUM BOOTHIANUM - small odd, hard to get. Graceful narrow leaves and compact bulbs. They look like a stack of green nickels that fell over. Mixed color of sepals and petals green and yellow. March to February. Get on waiting list.

4 to 6 bulbs	\$ 1.75	8 to 10 bulbs	\$ 2.50
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POLYSTACHYA LUTEOLA (minuta) - Small attractive rare plant, graceful leaves and many small flowers in terminal panicles, white turning yellow. March to November.

Small	\$ 1.00	Large.	\$ 2.00
Medium	\$ 1.50		

POLYRRHIZA LINDENII (Ghost Orchid). A real oddity. No leaves or stems, only roots and large pure white blooms with long tails. Every collector should have one. An excellent house plant if kept in humid condition. Spring, summer and fall.

Bare root \$.50 On wood. \$ 2.00

PLEUROTHALLIS GELDIA - A beautiful plant with odd fragrant blossoms in winter. From the deepest swamps. Collector's item and attractive house plant. Each leaf a separate orchid but sent in clusters of 3 or more mature leaves. Much in demand and hard to get. \$2.50 per cluster. Don't send money - get on waiting list.

BROMELIADS

Among the most attractive of house plants, especially if taken on wood. May bloom at any time and easier to grow than orchids. If the old plant dies, leave as is for a while. They sucker at the base. Very attractive plants for porch and outdoors in summer. For something different go in for these plants along with orchids. All Bromeliads are easy to grow from suckers or seeds. The small plants on twigs are dandy for dish gardens and terrariums.

Bromeliads belong to the pineapple family and most are epiphytes growing like and along with orchids. Our Tillandsias with lovely bloom are a branch of the Bromeliads. If bare root, pot in loose material such as dead leaves, rotten wood or excelsior. Water sparingly but keep in humid atmosphere with water always in leaf cups.

TILLANDSIA FASCICULATA - Most popular - large gray-green, stiff foliage with beautiful red flower bracts and blue flowers along the side.

Large. \$ 1.00 On wood or bark. \$ 1.25

Specimen plants. \$ 1.50 On wood or bark. \$ 2.00

Baby plants for dish gardens \$1.00 per dozen

TILLANDSIA UTRICULATA - Grow to be giants with long, soft, curly leaves and very long bloom spikes to 6 feet.

Small. \$ 1.50 Large. \$ 5.00

Medium (A large plant) . . \$ 2.00

TILLANDSIA TENUIFOLIA - Very attractive, easy to handle. Leaves grasslike. Good in baskets and dish gardens. Each \$.50 On wood. \$.75

TILLANDSIA CIRCINATA (Silver Queen) - small attractive plants - excellent for dish gardens and other make ups. On twigs or small branches. \$.35

TILLANDSIA BALBASIANA - Prettiest of all with its long, graceful curly leaves and lovely blooms - Each. \$.75 On wood or twig. \$ 1.00

TILLANDSIA ALOIFOLIA - A corkscrew shape, striped curly leaves. A toss up between this and Balbasiana as to which is prettiest

Each \$.75 On wood or twig. \$ 1.00

TILLANDSIA VALENZUELANA - Soft and sometime pink foliage with branching bloom.

Each \$.75 On wood. \$ 1.00

OTHER INTERESTING PLANTS AND THINGS

One of the most beautiful and exotic sights to a plant lover is the entrance into a "cypress dome" or swamp of the deep Everglades. At first sparse, the growth gradually becomes more dense, then suddenly one steps into a low area (which in wet times would require a boat or deep wading.) The limbs of the trees are covered with plant life, the abundance of each item depending upon the particular swamp. There will be orchids, in variety, some rare and hard to spot, air plants or bromeliads, moss ferns and lichens. If you have been very quiet you will see much bird and animal life. Yes, alligators. If noisy, all fade from sight and leave you alone in a beautiful but silent cathedral.

The most attractive item one can have in greenhouse or solarium is a limb from one of these trees cut with all its plant life thriving. You may have specimens 2 to 3 inches in diameter at \$2.50 per foot. Special instructions with order. This is one of our best sellers. Always at least one orchid on each limb.

POLYPODIUM INCANUM - The true resurrection fern - not the desert fern. Curls up when dry - wet and it comes to life. Ideal house plant especially with flower arrangements. Large tussocks often with other plants \$1.50.

Whole COCONUTS sprouted. Most unusual and attractive, easy to grow house palm. Can be grown in a bowl of water or large pot with any soil \$2.50. Try sprouting your own - nuts \$.25 each.

FICUS AUREA - golden fig, strangler fig, banyan tree. Makes very fine fast growing house plants with shiny leaves. Small trees 2 to 3 feet cut back for shipping \$1.50.

BANANA SPROUTS. One of the best and easiest house plants and will grow to big plants outdoors in summer. Very fast in good soil with much water. Sprouts cut back for shipping - 12 to 18 in. \$1.50 - 18 to 36 in. \$2.00.

IRIS SAVANNARUM. Beautiful large blue flowers. Grows and blooms in or out of water. 3 large rhizomes \$1.00.

CANNA FLACCIDA or Indian Shot. Very easy -- 2 to 5 large yellow and reddish yellow flowers in spikes. Spring and summer outdoors. 5 rhizomes \$1.00. There are two lovely lillies. HYMENOCALLIS OCCIDENTALIS, 2 to 5 large white blooms. Bulbs - 3 for \$1.00.

HYMENOCALLIS PALMERI plants look like narcissus and each produces 1 large white bloom. 5 bulbs \$1.00. Order these for Spring and Summer - set outside in your garden.

The giant cypress tress grow in and about swamps. Since their roots are usually covered with water, they send up "breathers" or "knees". There are no two knees alike and they take every shape imaginable. The solid type can be made into pots, vases, bird houses or wire your orchids to them. 8 to 10 in. 75¢; 10 to 15 in. \$1.25; 15 in. or more \$2.00. West of the Mississippi add 15% for postage.

BONNET SPONGES. Remember Robinson Crusoe and his hat? It was a large bonnet sponge. Dandy planters for orchids, bromeliads and many other plants. Line one and make yourself a tricky hat - man or woman. Cured but not fully cleaned because plants like the salt, bromine and chlorine in the sponges. Uncleaned sponges are loaded with many tiny shells and coral. For interest and use, don't miss this. Small 6 to 10 in., \$1.00; medium to 15 in., \$1.50; large, \$2.50 with a surprise.

Large pink Conch Shell planters. Ideal for planters, vases or ornaments; 50¢ and 75¢.

Collection of assorted small sponges for what nots, squariums, arrangements, etc., \$1.00. Collection of assorted sea curiosities and corals - a good deal \$2.00. Sea bisquits, most unusual and attractive 50¢. Rose coral, ideal for dish gardens and aquariums 25¢. One year subscription to Ozark Gardens magazine \$1.50. You will read our articles on orchids and other rare plants. It is a valuable source for many types of inexpensive plants. Send money to Mrs. Edith Bestard, 818 West Beach St., Long Beach, Mississippi.

We have many requests for and sell lots of dried material or natural foliage. For indoor winter fun and making gifts and arrangements, try some of these items. Paint them yourself with dye or light quick drying paint.

COCONUT CALYX - like DRIED FLOWERS - 60¢ per dozen

MELALEUCA sprays with pods - 75¢ per dozen

CECROPIA LEAVES - 3 for 55¢

BRAKEN FERN - 60¢ per dozen

TAMARIND PODS - 60¢ per dozen

COCONUT BOATS - make your own serving trays or artificial flower holders. 50¢ each.

Yes, the best of osmunda, clean and light - 60¢ per lb. - up to 3 lbs. postpaid, East of Mississippi. Add 10¢ per lb. West of Mississippi. Over 3 lbs. 55¢ per lb. - add 10% west of Mississippi; 100 lbs. or more 45¢ per lb. Ry. freight collect.

of the same kind, but they are not the same as the ones that are in the other two groups. The first group is the one that is in the first group, and the second group is the one that is in the second group. The third group is the one that is in the third group, and the fourth group is the one that is in the fourth group. The fifth group is the one that is in the fifth group, and the sixth group is the one that is in the sixth group. The seventh group is the one that is in the seventh group, and the eighth group is the one that is in the eighth group. The ninth group is the one that is in the ninth group, and the tenth group is the one that is in the tenth group. The eleventh group is the one that is in the eleventh group, and the twelfth group is the one that is in the twelfth group. The thirteenth group is the one that is in the thirteenth group, and the fourteenth group is the one that is in the fourteenth group. 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IMPORTED ORCHIDS
(Rev. 1-58)

FROM LATIN AMERICA AND OTHER CONTINENTS. THESE PLANTS ARE FRESHLY
IMPORTED OR FROM POTS.

- CATTLEYA SKINNERI - Flowers rose purple, 3 ins. and 3 or more to bloom spike
Summer bloom - \$3.50 to \$5.00.
- CATTLEYA AURENTIACA - 3 or more 3 in. orange and purple flowers - Fall and
winter bloom - \$2.50 to \$3.50.
- CATTLEYA BOURINGIANA - One of the best. Many 3 in. rose, purple flowers to the
stem. Fall bloom - \$3.50 and \$5.00.
- ONCIDIUM CARTHAGENSIS - A real spray orchid - many flowers on long stems
Summer and fall bloom. \$2.50 and \$3.50.
- ONCIDIUM WENTWORTHIANUM - Another fine long spray - many yellow 1-2 in.
flowers. Summer and fall - \$2.50 and \$3.50.
- ONCIDIUM SPHACELATUM - Another dandy for Spring - many 1-2 in. flowers.
\$2.50 and \$3.50.
- ONCIDIUM SPLENDIDUM - Yellow flowers 3 in. in spray. Attractive plants,
one of the very best "oncies", \$3.50 and \$5.00.
- ONCIDIUM LEUCHOCHILLUM - 2 in. yellow-green blossoms in sprays. Bloom time
varies. \$3.00.
- LAELIA ACUMINATA ROSEA - Lilies are among the easiest and finest orchids,
closely related to Cattleyas. Flowers 3 or more - rose purple for Spring.
\$2.50 and \$3.50.
- CYCHOCHIS CHLORCHILON - This is one of the most unusual orchids. Large ribbed
bilks and long bloom spikes curved like a swan neck so it is called Swan
Orchid. Flowers up to 10 - 4 to 6 ins. - yellow and green in Spring, easy to
grow. \$5.00.
- EPIDENDRUM ATROPURPUREA - most consider it the best of this family. Several
2-3 in. green and brown flowers in Summer and fall. \$2.50 and \$3.50.
- EPIDENDRUM CILIORE - has several 3 to 4 in. white fragrant flowers. Easy to
grow. \$2.50 and \$3.50.
- EPIDENDRUM BRASSAVOLAE - Many yellow 4 in. flowers in Summer. A dandy.
\$3.00 and \$4.00.
- LYCOSTA SKINNERI - National flower of Guatemala. 4 to 6 in. whitish-rose
blossoms. Likes it cool. \$3.50 and \$5.00.
- BRASSAVOLAE NODOSA - 2 to 3 in. white flowers. Plants attractive and easy to
grow. Might bloom anytime. \$2.50.
- ODONTOGLOSSUM GRANDE - 4 to 7 yellow 5-7 in. blooms in Autumn. Will stand
warmer weather than the other "Odonts". \$5.00.

WE WILL BE BRINGING IN MANY MORE SPECIES, SO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE.

"A SURPRISE IN EVERY PACKAGE"

